

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR YVONNE B. BURKE

MAY 15, 2007

Although desperately wanting to serve in the U.S. Air Force, African-Americans were not allowed to join until the U.S. Congress agreed to establish a segregated training program in 1940 known as the "Tuskegee Experiment".

Confronting severe discrimination, thousands of African-Americans signed up to train as pilots, navigators, bombardiers, and mechanics. These men underwent thorough, rigorous training and then many of these men then fought in World War II in a segregated squadron. Facing bigotry and racism, the Tuskegee Airmen became some of the most highly respected pilots of World War II.

Sixty years after the end of World War II, Congress has finally awarded the Tuskegee Airmen the Congressional Gold Medal. The ceremony was held at the Capitol Rotunda on Thursday, March 29, 2007.

Now, it is incumbent upon this Board to assure that the Tuskegee Airmen receive the long overdue honor and gratitude within Los Angeles County.

- M O R E -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

BURKE _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

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I, THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Declare May 15, 2007 "Tuskegee Airmen Day" throughout the County of Los Angeles and encourage all residents to commend the Tuskegee Airmen for their tremendous service.

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